



# Household Safety Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate area.
- If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, have a qualified electrician install interconnected smoke alarms in each room so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). all mounted alarms should be installed 4 to 12 inches away from the ceiling. For pitched ceilings, install the alarm near the highest point of the ceiling.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.



- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps".
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms" try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Regular vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarms, following the manufacturer's instructions, can keep them working properly.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever, REPLACE yours once every 10 years.
- Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.